discussions with the Unions. A committee has been constituted to evaluate the factors responsible for storage/transit losses and quality complaint procedures and to make recommendations as to whether any change/amendment is warranted.

Stock position of wheat and rice

*355. SHRIAIMADUDDDM AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the present stock position of wheat and rice with the Food Corporation of India;

(b) whether Government have procured more rice and wheat in 2000-2001; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR): (a) The stock position of wheat and rice in the Central Pool is as under:—

(Fig. in lakh tonnes)

Wheat*	Rice*	Total*
357.97	265.03	623.00

* As on 1-11-2001

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The quantity of rice procured during 2000-2001 (Kharif Marketing Season) was 191.03 lakh tonnes as against 172.73 lakh tonnes during 1999-2000 (Kharif Marketing Season). Similarly, the quantity of wheat procured during 2000-2001 (Rabi Marketing Season) was 163.56 lakh tonnes as against 141.43 lakh tonnes during 1999-2000 (Rabi Marketing Season).

Clearance Commission on local cheques by Ghaziabad Postal Circle

*356. SHRIRAJU PARMAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that post offices in Ghaziabad Circle charge clearance commission on the cheques of local nationalised banks presented to them against PPF deposits etc. on the plea that these cheques are sent to Delhi for clearance; and